


PIARC TC C.2.1: Comparison of National Road Safety Policies & Plans

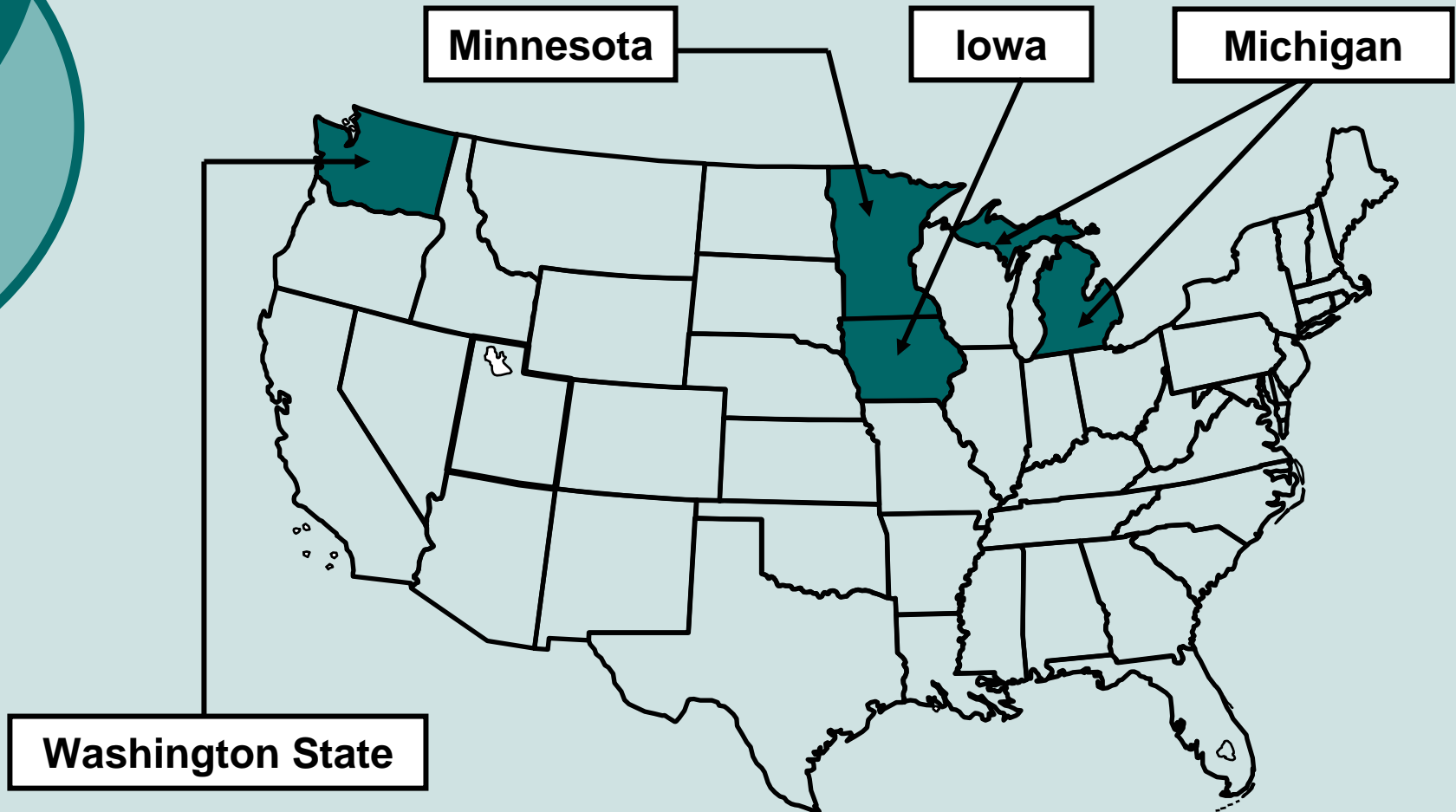
NCHRP 17-18 (016) Case Studies Project

Creating a Culture of Traffic Safety: Four Successful States

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Four State Case Studies





Project Elements

- Four states selected by sponsors: Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Washington State
- Begun in October 2006
- Conduct in-state interviews
- Develop a case study report for each state
- Provide a PowerPoint presentation for each state and an executive-level summary



Purpose of Case Studies

- Examine technical and institutional factors implemented by states that have realized success in reducing fatalities and their fatality rate
- Identify success factors and key elements that could be shared with other states
- Identify the process of institutionalizing safety and the incorporation of the 4 Es in achieving improvements over time



Major Case Study Factors

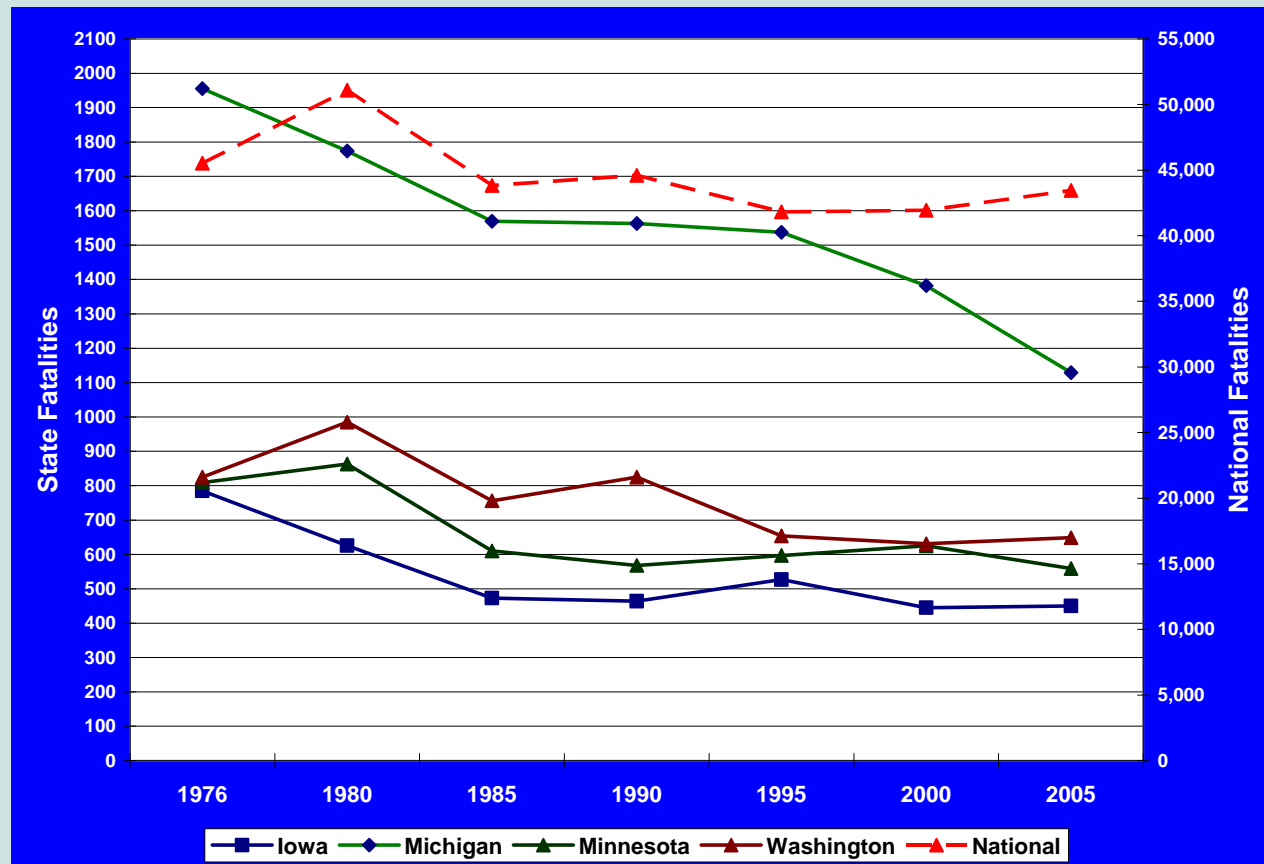
- Organizational leadership
- Political leadership
- Processes used to institutionalize safety



Information Collection

- In-state interviews
 - Highway Safety Office
 - Governor's representative and staff
 - State Department of Transportation (DOT) engineering and safety staff
 - FHWA division staff
 - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) regional administrator
 - Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and local government representatives

Case Study State Fatalities Compared to National Fatalities (1976-2005)



Sources: NHTSA; **Iowa**: Office of Driver Services, Iowa Department of Transportation; **Michigan**: Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning; **Minnesota**: Minnesota Department of Public Safety – Office of Traffic Safety; **Washington**: Washington Traffic Safety Commission and Washington Department of Transportation



Organizational Leadership

- Key individuals with passion for improving traffic safety
- Strong partnership between the state DOT and Highway Safety Office
- Barriers between agencies removed
- Adequate technical and funding resources dedicated to local road improvements
- Accountability for achieving results



Political Leadership

- Strong interest and support from key state leaders and the governor in most cases
- Sponsorship of key legislation and champions with interest over time
- Enactment of most key traffic safety laws by the legislature
- Provision of necessary monetary resources to support safety
- Promotion and support of key safety programs with the public



Summary of Critical Success Factors

- Success can be achieved using different approaches and organization structures
- A safety commission structure and/or dedicated state level leadership organization helps to achieve a comprehensive and coordinated program



Summary of Critical Success Factors (Continued)

- A strong vision is stated to target planning, programming and resources
- An aggressive safety goal is developed and promoted
- Individual leaders (champions) within state agencies are present
- Focus is on the support of all public roadways (state and local)
- Technical assistance and resources are allocated for local agencies



Summary of Critical Success Factors (Continued)

- Statewide law enforcement networks are developed to support strong traffic safety enforcement programs
- Enactment of effective traffic safety laws is a priority especially to address behavioral issues
- Legislative opposition is met by generating partnerships with non-governmental associations and organizations



Project Contact Information

- Full case study reports and state PowerPoint presentations are available for each state from FHWA and NCHRP